

November 1, 2022

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
204-E Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Yarmuth:

We write to urge you to hold a hearing on the impact of, and finding a fiscally responsible solution to, the forthcoming cuts to physician payments under Medicare, specifically the four percent sequester cut required by the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO). Should Congress not act, starting January 2023, \$35 billion will be cut from Medicare next year alone—and more than \$500 billion over the next 10 years.

To be clear, these sequester cuts are on the horizon because, under one-party rule, Washington Democrats have recklessly spent more than \$10 trillion on policies that disincentivize work, encourage government dependency, and worsen the economy, creating a historically large deficit. In short, the Democrat majority has chosen to prioritize inflationary spending over preserving Medicare for our seniors and those at risk. The four percent cut to Medicare will be implemented on top of the ongoing two percent Medicare sequester required under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA). With these scheduled cuts under the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget, we request that you hold a hearing so we can prioritize America's seniors and address the Medicare sequester cuts in a manner that still fulfills the budgetary savings required under PAYGO law.

As you may recall, the most recent times Democrat spending grew so large that the PAYGO cut loomed over Medicare and other programs, House Republicans came prepared with solutions. In March 2021, we introduced H.R. 1999, the Protect Seniors and Cut Waste Act. This bill would have prevented the four percent cut to Medicare, included more than \$12 billion for the Provider Relief Fund, and was fully paid for by cutting waste from the American Rescue Plan Act in the process. The Democrat majority rejected this plan. In December 2021, House Republicans introduced H.R. 6144, the Removing Waste and Protecting Medicare Act, which again would have prevented the PAYGO cut to Medicare, delayed the two percent BCA cut, included a three percent increase to all physician payments under Medicare for 2022, and was paid for by scaling back wasteful, inflationary spending. Instead of supporting this legislation, the Democrat majority chose to let the spending continue, leaving health care providers in the crosshairs once again.

After years of heroism displayed by our frontline physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual threat of payment reductions under the Biden Administration and a Democrat-led Congress is no way to repay our health care

workforce. This trend has led to an untenable situation in health care circles where doctors and patients alike are faced with a dilemma. Patients are finding that few doctors can afford to take Medicare patients, leaving more of those who need help in search of assistance. For doctors, they are facing staggering Medicare costs without equitable reimbursement. This cycle is unsustainable for physicians and will ultimately result in lack of access for millions of patients across the country.

Congress has an obligation to be responsible when making decisions on the budgeting process. We are prepared to work towards a bipartisan answer and urge you to join our effort in requiring an offset for a future solution. Failing to have this discussion will only show that the Democrat majority prioritizes adding trillions more to our national debt in inflationary spending at the expense of health care for America's seniors. We must ensure that the United States remains a leader in access to quality health care by empowering physicians to continue serving American seniors. We urge you to schedule a hearing as soon as possible so we can work together and prevent budget cuts to Medicare in a fiscally responsible way. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member Of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew, D.M.D.
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson, M.D.
Member of Congress